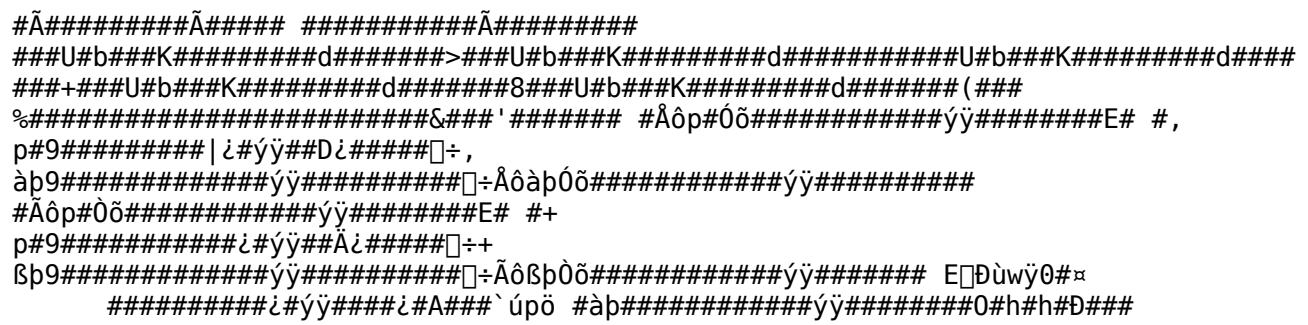

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□#ÿÿ####ÿÿ####Qÿ□#ÿÿK#########d#########¯###Randomised Controlled Trial (RCT)
Patients assigned to one of two groups randomly; one given treatment being
studied, the other placebo/usual treatment; outcomes are then compared.
Systematic Review (SR)Comprehensive identification and synthesis of all relevant
studies on a given topic, maybe RCTs, maybe other studiesMeta-analysis
Statistical technique for combining results of several studies into a single
numerical estimate#
```

###ÿÿ#####ÿ□#ÿÿd#########d#########s###Understanding the different types of primary and secondary research that are included in the Cochrane Library are crucial to understanding the information on it. For beginners it is important to go through the above definitions so that everyone is clear what is meant by each term.Might want to get more background info. to add more to definitions in your explanation.#

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□#ÿÿ ###ÿÿ####Uÿb#ÿÿK#########d#########¢###Hierarchy of evidenceMeta-analysis
of good quality RCTs (systematic review)One good quality RCTone well designed
controlled study without randomisationetc....

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□#ÿÿ ###ÿÿ####Uÿb#ÿÿK#########d#########Ã###Provide:-Scientific rather than
subjective summarisation of literatureCan reveal new evidenceHelp to deal with
the volume of literatureMore reliable evidence with which to aid decision
making#
```

###ÿÿ######ÿ□#ÿÿd##########d########## ###These are what Systematic reviews can potentially do. Because of their characteristics as outlined in the previous slide they can ....traditional reviews of the literature have potential for bias, if they do not include all studies on a given topic - SRs do not do this - nothing is excluded from a systematic review without reasons being given for exclusion - cover all publications on a given topic.Combining the results of individual trials can strengthen the evidence and make a result more obviously beneficial or harmful than many individual studies.Can potentially be time saving, researchers have already done the literature searching and analysis for you.Would not change practice on the basis of one clinical trial. SRs provide stronger better evidence on which to base decisions.

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□#ÿÿ ###ÿÿ####Uÿb#ÿÿK#########d#########û###Archie Cochrane□It is surely a great criticism of our profession that we have not organised a critical summary, by specialty or subspeciality, adapted periodically, of all relevant randomised controlled trials.□Pregnancy and childbirth work - 1980sö

##########ÿ□#ÿÿd#########d#########Ç###A little background into the Cochrane Collaboration and the CLib.Archie Cochrane, a British Epidemiologist wrote □Effectiveness and efficiency□ in 1972. In it he lamented fact that there was great ignorance about the effects of healthcare and that there was no organisation of the results of research in medicine.In the 1980s work in Oxford started to be done looking at research in the areas of pregnancy and childbirth. Led to the publication of □Effective Care in Pregnancy and Childbirth□ in 1989. First text to be based on findings taken from systematic reviews.Coincided with realisation that the scientific quality of many traditional reviews of healthcare interventions left much to be desired.ÿ

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□#ÿÿ ###ÿÿ####Uÿb#ÿÿK#########d#########□###NHS R&D Information Systems Strategy
- 1992UK Cochrane Centre - 1992NHS CRD - 1994National Research Register - 1997
Cochrane Collaboration - 1993 onwardsÿ
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###ÿÿ#####ÿ□#ÿÿd#########d#########(###Placing the various components of the R&D ISS into placeThe ISS had three components which became known as:-UKCC in Oxford established in 1992NHS Centre for Reviews and Dissemination established January 1994, under directorship of Trevor Sheldon, based in YorkWork on a register of research being conducted in the NHS - NRR - first prototype database produced in 1997.From the beginnings in Oxford the Cochrane Collaboration has spread to become an international network of over 3000 people, all committed to the ethos of effective healthcare.

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The Cochrane Collaboration is an international organisation that aims to help people make wellinformed decisions about healthcare by preparing, maintaining and promoting the accessibility of systematic reviews of the effects of healthcare interventions□

###ÿÿ#####ÿ▯#ÿÿd#########d#########▯###This is the collaboration▯s mission statement.Might want to get a bit more background info. on the Collaboration and its aims, etc.#

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□#ÿÿ ###ÿÿ####Uÿb#ÿÿK#########d#########□###Produce and update systematic
reviewsHand search for RCTs Medline (and others) enhancement Review methodology
Cochrane Library

###ÿÿ#####ÿ#ÿÿd#########d#########¾###How the Collaboration achieve its aims and objectives - what they doAgain the section in the Cochrane Handbook will give you more information to back this up, or About the Collaboration on the ClibHandsearching for RCTs is one of the main areas of work for CRGs - cover journals in their particular areas of interest and do searching both currently and retrospectively. All these contribute to the trials registerWork on review methodology - how to do reviews and produce guidelines for others to useWork with the producers of Medline and more recently other databases in identifying RCTs on these databases and retrospectively getting them indexed as such. Contribute to the Cochrane Library

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□#ÿÿ ###ÿÿ####Uÿb#ÿÿK#########d#########[###Collaborative Review groups (CRGs)
Cochrane CentresFieldsNetworksMethods working groups#
```

###ÿÿ#####ÿ□#ÿÿd#########d#############The various entities and organisation of the Cochrane Collaboration - how it operatesCRGs are the groups who actually do the SRs. They are organised into specific areas of interest, e.g. diabetes group, epilepsy group etc.Cochrane Centres around the world support the work of the CRGs by offering advice, training, help with funding, etc.Fields work in areas which transcend the CRGs, e.g. primary care, care of the elderly, alternative medicine. Make sure these aspects are regarded and covered by the CRGsNetworks - only one at present the Cochrane Consumers Network - keen to involve consumers (i.e. patients) in the work of the CollaborationMethods working groups look at the methodology and science of doing reviews and RCTs - work on guidelines, etc. to help others.g

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□#ÿÿ ###ÿÿ####Uÿb#ÿÿK#########d#########³###Cochrane Database of Systematic
Reviews (CDSR)Full text systematic reviews - ongoing and completedDatabase of
Abstracts of Reviews of Effectiveness (DARE)Assessments of reviews#

###ÿÿ#####ÿ#ÿÿd#########d#########ú###Cochrane Library is a suite of four databasesCDSR - the database containing details of the reviews done by the Cochrane Collaboration. Includes full-text of reviews and protocols for on-going reviews. The full-text includes the meta-analysis diagrams.DARE - has detailed abstracts on reviews published elsewhere in the medical literature. Assessments of these reviews look at the methodology of the reviews, not commenting on the results. Covers many areas not as yet covered by the Collaboration.

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□#ÿÿ ###ÿÿ####Uÿb#ÿÿK#########d#########□###Cochrane Controlled Trials Register
(CCTR)Bibliographic references to trials Cochrane Review Methodology Database
(CRMD)References to methodology studies
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###ÿÿ#####ÿ□#ÿÿd#########d#########À###Third database is the trials register. As its name suggests contains bibliographic references to RCTs identified in the medical literature.Can point out that searching the Clib is like going through a hierachy. Ideally after doing a search you will find that a systematic review has been done in your area. This will provide the best effectiveness information. In the Cochrane library it is good to find a Cochrane review as you can immeditely access the full text of this review. If not, there may be an abstract of a quality review published elsewhere. If no SRs or abstracts of SRs exist, the next level of effectiveness information can be seen as an RCT and the CCTR might contain references to RCTs in your area. Obviously the information gleaned from an RCT cannot be seen as □reliable□ as that from a SR.The final database is the CRMD which contains references to articles on the methodology of doing reviews and randomised controlled trials.

###ÿÿ#####ÿ#ÿÿd#########d#########H###As well as the databases there is a host of other information available on the Cochrane Library.Contact information for the C. Collaboration entitiesOther sources of effectiveness information outside of the Cochrane Library via the WWW.cochrane handbookk, a manual to doing systematic reviewsUser manual - guide to using the Cochrane LibraryGlossary of terms - definitions to terms commonly used in systematic reviews and the Clib. Whats new section - to highlight new changes in issues, etcComments and criticisms function - for feedback on the contents of reviews, etc.

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□#ÿÿ ###ÿÿ####Uÿb#ÿÿK#########d#########«###For questions on effectivenessWhat
is the effectiveness of treatment xWhat is an effective treatment for yIs z
effective in treating yIs z better than x at treating y#

###ÿÿ#####ÿ#ÿÿd#########d#########Ç###Important to establish with people when it is appropriate to use the Cochrane library and when it is not. The above are the sort of questions you could answer with the Clib. You might want to illustrate it with some actual examples e.g.What is the effectiveness of taking Vitamin C for preventing colds?What is the best way to deal with hip fractures? Are corticosteroids effective in treating sepsis?Which surfactants are best when dealing with respiratory distress syndrome in neonates? Natural or synthetic? Can be good for suggestions for research, people looking for topics for MD thesis, those who are interesting in SRs, finding information on the cochrane Collaboration - contact details etc.#

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□#ÿÿ ###ÿÿ####Uÿb#ÿÿK#########d#########¦###General healthcare questionscausal,
prognosis, epidemiology, etc.Statistics (prevalence and incidence)Primary
research other than RCTsGuidelinesCurrent research
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###ÿÿ#####ÿ□#ÿÿd#########d#########□###Is just as important to point out when users should not use the Cochrane LibraryIt is not suitable for general healthcare queries. Again can be useful to illustrate with actual questions, e.g.How do you treat asthma?How many cases of irritable bowel syndrome in UK in 1996?What causes senile dementia?Who is likely to suffer from osteoporosis?What are the risks of [a particular] surgical procedure?#

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